



NEWS RELEASE

The 26th Judicial District of North Carolina

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FOSTER CARE ADOPTIONS FINALIZED DURING MECKLENBURG COUNTY
17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY EVENT**

CHARLOTTE, NC — On Saturday, November 21, 2020, beginning at 10:00 am outside of the Mecklenburg County Courthouse (832 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, NC 28202) children and their families are scheduled to be recognized for their adoption on National Adoption Day via a drive through parade and pre-recorded program that includes remarks from adoptive families, community partners, YFS and county leadership, and entertainment from Anthony Hamilton.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the parade portion of the National Adoption Day celebration is free but only open to the media, not the general public. Mecklenburg County Juvenile Court, the Mecklenburg County Clerk of Superior Court's Office, Trial Court Administrator's Office, Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, Mecklenburg Guardian ad Litem Advocacy Foundation and the Mecklenburg County Guardian Ad Litem program are co-sponsoring this event. The parade and pre-recorded program will be presided over by District Court Judge Aretha Blake. The parade will include music, treats, and gifts for the families. Staff from the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services and the Mecklenburg County Guardian Ad Litem program, as well as various children's characters from Black Star Theatre Company, will line the parade route to cheer for the families as they drive through. A link to the pre-recorded program, including footage from the parade, will be provided to the public on county websites and social media pages.

This year, the court will recognize a total of 68 youth who have received adoption decrees between November 2019 and October 2020. Twenty-three of these youth were adopted through Mecklenburg County DSS/Youth & Family Service from foster care, 11 were adopted through Mecklenburg County DSS Interstate Compact for Placement of Children (ICPC), and 34 were adopted through Christian Adoption Services.

National Adoption Day is particularly focused on the more than 120,000 children in the United States that are waiting in foster care for an adoptive family. The average wait for a child in foster care to be adopted is nearly three years. More than 20,000 children age out of the foster care system every year with no family or permanent home.

Sponsors of this year's Adoption Day in Mecklenburg County include Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services-Youth and Family Services, Mecklenburg Guardian ad Litem Advocacy Foundation, and Kappa Alpha Theta. Special thanks to Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, Meridian Management Corporation, Black Star Theatre Company, Synergy, Ad Concepts, Anthony Hamilton, Willie Moore Jr., Derek Clark (The Rapping Dad), and DJ TabDBia\$\$i.

If you are a member of the media and would like to attend, please contact Jessica Davis.

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